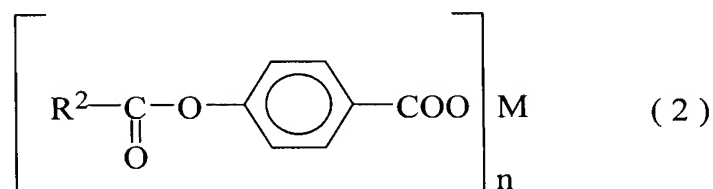
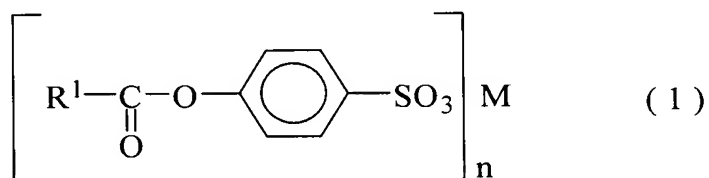


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A softening detergent composition comprising:

- (a) 1 to 30% by mass of a clay mineral;
- (b) 0.5 to 20% by mass of a ~~compound capable of releasing hydrogen peroxide in water~~ sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct;
- (c) 0.1 to 20% by mass of a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or (2):



wherein R¹ is an alkyl group having 4 to 13 carbon atoms; R² is an alkyl group having 5 to 13 carbon atoms; M is a hydrogen atom, or an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, with proviso that when M is an alkaline earth metal atom, n is 2, and that when M is an alkali metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, n is 1, or a combination of both; and

(d) 0.4 to 20 wt. % of a salt of a fatty acid; and

10 to 60% by mass of a component corresponding to a surfactant as prescribed in JIS K 3362:1998,

wherein a mass ratio of the component (b) to the component (c) [component (b)/component (c)] is from 3/4 to 20/1.

2. (original) The softening detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the component (b) is from 1.5 to 20% by mass, the amount of the component (c) is from 1.5 to 20% by mass, and the mass ratio of the component (b) to the component (c) is from 3/4 to 7/1.

3. (currently amended) The softening detergent composition according to claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~(d) — 0.4 to 20% by mass of a salt of a fatty acid,~~

wherein an anionic surfactant is contained in an amount of 55% by mass or more of the component corresponding to the surfactant,

the component (d) is contained in an amount of from 4 to 40% by mass of the component corresponding to the surfactant, and the mass ratio of the component (b) to the component (c) is from 20/1 to 1/1.

4. (currently amended) The softening detergent composition according to claim 3, wherein said anionic surfactant is an alkylbenzenesulfonate which is contained in an amount of from 35 to 70% by mass of the component corresponding

to the surfactant other than the component (d).

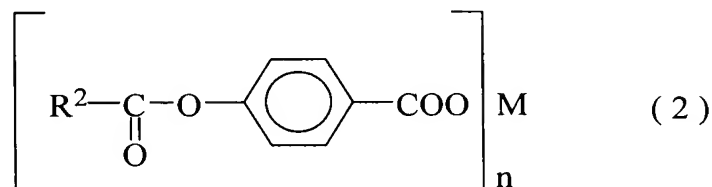
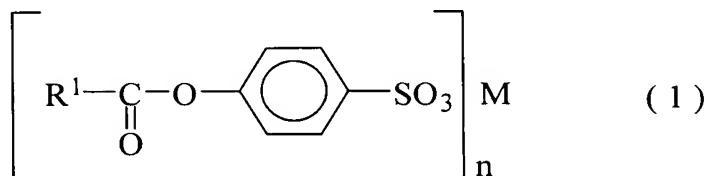
5. (original) A softening washing method of a fibrous manufactured article, comprising the step of washing an article to be washed with the softening detergent composition of any one of claims 1 to 4.

6. (currently amended) A method of enhancing softening effect of a clay mineral against a fibrous manufactured article, comprising the step of applying to the fibrous manufactured article,

(a) a clay mineral;

(b) a sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct ~~a compound capable of releasing hydrogen peroxide in water~~; and

(c) a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or (2):



wherein R^1 is an alkyl group having 4 to 13 carbon atoms; R^2 is an alkyl group having 5 to 13 carbon atoms; M is a hydrogen atom, or an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth

metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, with proviso that when M is an alkaline earth metal atom, n is 2, and that when M is an alkali metal atom, an ammonium or an alkanolamine, n is 1, or a combination of both; and

(d) a salt of a fatty acid,

in mass ratios satisfying:

the component (b)/the component (c) = 3/4 to 20/1, and

the component (a)/the component (c) = 35/1 to 1/5.

7. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the component (a), the component (b) and the component (c) are applied to the fibrous manufactured article in mass ratios satisfying the component (b)/the component (c) = 3/4 to 7/1, and the component (a)/the component (c) = 30/1 to 1/5.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, ~~further comprising the step of applying to the fibrous manufactured article (d) a salt of a fatty acid,~~ wherein the components (a), the component (b), the component (c) and the component (d) are applied to the fibrous manufactured article in mass ratios satisfying the component (b)/the component (c) = 20/1 to 1/1, the component (a)/the component (c) = 35/1 to 1/5, and the component (a)/the component (d) = 20/1 to 1/5.

9. (new) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, wherein said clay material is at least one selected from the group consisting of talc, saponite, hectorite, sauconite, stevensite, montmorillonite, beidellite, nontronite, vermiculites, phlogopite, biotite,

zinnwaldite, muscovite, paragonite, celadonite, glauconite, clinochlore, chamosite, nimite, pennantite, sudoite, donbassite, clintonite, margarite, thulite, antigorite, lizardite, chrysotile, amesite, cronstedtite, berthierine, greenalite, garnierite (nepouite), kaolinite, dickite, nacrite and halloysite.

10. (new) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, wherein said sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct is present in an amount of 2 to 16% by mass.

11. (new) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, wherein said sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct is present in an amount of 3.5 to 8% by mass.

12. (new) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, wherein said fatty acid is present in an amount of 2.5 to 8% by mass.

13. (new) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, wherein said sodium carbonate-hydrogen peroxide adduct is a coated granule.

14. (new) The softening detergent composition of claim 13, wherein said coated granule is coated with at least one coating selected from the group consisting of boric acids, borates, sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, magnesium sulfates, magnesium silicate, magnesium chloride, magnesium oxide, sodium silicate, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and hydroxypropyl cellulose.

15. (new) The softening detergent composition of claim 1, further comprising water in an amount of 0.1 to 10 % by mass.